Lodges of Southern New Zealand

Friendly Societies were set up mainly to provide insurance-related benefits for members and their families. These included benefits payable on sickness, annuities in old age, funeral benefits, life insurance and medical benefits.

LODGES were governed by the Friendly Societies Act which came into force from 1 January 1878 and covered those societies which already existed, but specified that all societies must have a minimum of seven members. Persons under the age of 21 but above the age of 16 could be members, and branches that consisted solely of members of any age under 16 years but exceeding three years could be registered under the Act.

All the following orders are Friendly Societies with the exception of: Antient, Free and Accepted Masons; Cheong Shing Tong; Co-Masonry; Loyal Orange Lodge; Order of the Eastern Star; Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes.

The following orders have been established south of the Waitaki River since the founding of Otago in 1848. The approximate number of lodges in this area enrolled under each order is shown, making a total as known to date of 1038 lodges.

Antient, Free and Accepted Masons
English Freemasonry started in England before 1717, the date that English Grand Lodge was formed. The earliest record of a Scottish lodge is December 1598 with Scottish Grand Lodge formed in 1726, its headquarters being at Kilwinning in Ayrshire. Irish lodges were operating before 1710 with their Grand Lodge formed in 1725.

The first Masonic lodge in Otago was The Lodge of Otago, No. 844, an English Constitution lodge, on 8 August 1860 followed by the first Scottish lodge on 4 November 1861 and the first Irish lodge on 29 March 1866. The New Zealand Constitution was formed in 1890 and many lodges from the other three constitutions transferred over to the new one. Total lodges = 175.

Ancient Order of Foresters.
This order was formed at Knarsborough Castle, England on 29 October 1745 and originally called Royal Foresters; the
name being changed to the present one in 1834. The order started in New Zealand in the early 1860s and in Dunedin in 1862. Total lodges = 107.

**Cheong Shing Tong**
This is a Chinese Benevolent Society, comparable to European friendly societies, which raised subscriptions to send the old and the sick and the bodies of the dead home to China. The Association still exists in Wellington, as advised by Dr James Ng. The status of this organisation is uncertain as it is not registered as a friendly society but is included as a matter of record. Total lodges = 1.

**Co-Masonry**
This is an organization not related to Freemasonry. There were only three lodges in New Zealand, the only Dunedin lodge going out of existence in 1985. Total lodges = 1.

**Daughters of Temperance**
A temperance lodge that amalgamated with the Sons of Temperance, which see.

**Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society**
This order mainly meets in Catholic Church halls and started in Dunedin in 1873. Total lodges = 22.

**Independent Order of Good Templars**
A temperance lodge that was founded in the State of Central New York in 1851, the first lodge in England opening in 1868. More than one hundred lodges were opened in New Zealand in a little over two years after commencing in 1872 in Invercargill. In 1873 there were four Good Templar lodges in Dunedin, while in 1876 All Nations Lodge, No. 13 at Port Chalmers had 251 members. Total lodges = 277.

**Independent Order of Oddfellows**
This order was started during the Californian gold rush by a former member of the Manchester Unity IOOF and came to New Zealand and Dunedin from the Australian goldfields in 1862. The head office was established in Dunedin in the Express Company buildings in Bond Street and later moved to Glasgow Street, South Dunedin. Womens’ lodges were established in 1895 and have ‘Rebekah’ as part of their name. The first juvenile lodges were established by 1901. There were 98 lodges still going in New Zealand as at August 1997. Total lodges = 98.

**Independent Order of Rechabites**
A temperance lodge instituted in Salford, England in 1835 with head office in Manchester, and first introduced to New Zealand in 1843 and Dunedin in 1876. The biblical Rechabites were pastoral tent dwellers of Israelite extraction, and this led to their lodges being known as tents. Total lodges = 58.

**Loyal Orange Lodge**
The first lodge of the Orange Institution was formed on the field of battle in 1795 and the order spread rapidly throughout Ulster. The first lodge was opened in New Zealand in Auckland in 1842, while the first Otago lodge was opened about 1873 in Caversham. Total lodges = 91.

**Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows**
The order was started in England at the Ropemakers Arms in Salford in 1809 and commenced in Nelson in 1842. The first lodge formed in Otago was the Loyal Hand and Heart Lodge on 5 December 1848. In 1908 there were thirty lodges in New Zealand in 1939 the order had 39,000 members, and, was the strongest friendly society in the world in 1948. Total lodges = 88.

**Order of the Eastern Star**
A predominately American order open to both men and women, although its membership is preponderantly female. In Otago and Southland, total lodges = 3.

**Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia**
A social organisation, its objects being the protection of Protestant principles and the payment of benefits to members. This is the English version of the Loyal Orange Lodge and was in Dunedin from 1873 onwards. Total lodges = 14.

**Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes**
Known as the ‘Buffs’ this order was started in England in the early 1800s by actors as the Loyal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes, but the Loyal was changed to Royal, possibly in 1849. It was derived from but was never part of the famous Lushington Club in London, which became over fastidious in its selection of members. Its refusal to admit several members of the Drury Lane staff in London led to the formation of the Buffalo Society in London about 1822 at the Harp Tavern, close to the Drury Lane Theatre. The greatest progress was made in the Manchester area. The lodge does not pay benefits, but helps its members. It was established in Dunedin in the early 1920s. Total lodges = 45.

**Sons of Temperance**
The first meeting of the Sons of Temperance was held in New York in 1842 with 16 members present. The society later merged with the Daughters of Temperance to become The Sons and Daughters of Temperance. It was established in Dunedin in 1871. Total lodges = 16.

**United Ancient Order of Druids**
The order was revived in 1770 from the ancient Druids, but did not prosper, although re-revived in 1788. It was later started in the North Country of England in 1871 and transported to America, Australia and New Zealand in 1875. Established in Dunedin in June 1880. Juvenile lodges were revived in 1926. Total lodges = 42.

**HOCKEN ARCHIVES**
The Hocken’s collection of Lodge archives has built up over the last four or five years and comprises the following records, which vary from a complete run of minute books and other records to a single item. The lodges are based in Dunedin unless otherwise stated.

**Ancient Order of Foresters**
Court Enterprise, No. 3990.
Court Excelsior, No. 6128.
Court King Edward’s Pride, No. 8214, Charter.
Court Little John, No. 6837.
Court Pride of the Leith, No. 3992.
Court Pride of Roslyn, No. 8331.
Court St. Andrew, No. 6127.
Court Woodland’s Pride, No. 8041.
Antient, Free and Accepted Masons
District Grand Lodge, New Zealand South, Scottish Constitution.
District Grand Lodge, Otago & Southland, English Constitution.
Hiram Lodge, No. 46 NZC.
Lodge Celtic, No. 477 SC.
Lodge Ioniac, No. 191 NZC.
Lodge Karitane, No. 221 NZC, Waikouaiti.
Lodge Maori, No. 105 NZC, Ravensbourne.
Lodge Morning Star, No. 192.
Lodge Morning Star, No. 192, Lodge of Instruction.
Lodge Oceanic, No. 154 NZC.
Lodge Otago Kilwinning, No. 143 NZC.
Lodge Otago Kilwinning, No. 417 SC.
Lodge Outram, No. 375 NZC, Outram.
Lodge Peninsula Kilwinning, No. 696 SC, Portobello.
Lodge Roslyn, No. 250 NZC.
Lodge Roslyn Morning Star, No. 192 NZC.
Lodge St. Andrew, No. 432 SC.
Lodge St. Clair, No. 246 NZC.
Lodge St. George, No. 1128 EC, Lawrence.
Lodge St. John, No. 84 NZC, Mosgiel.
Lodge St. John Kilwinning, No. 662 SC, North East Valley.
Lodge St. Patrick, No. 468 IC.
Lodge Strath Taieri, No. 199 NZC, Middlemarch.
Lodge Taieri, No. 620 SC, Outram. Later moved to Dunedin and became Lodge Roslyn, No. 250 NZC.
Lodge Waikouaiti, No. 2115 EC then No. 57 NZC.
Port Chalmers Marine Lodge, No. 942 EC.
Research Lodge of Otago, No. 161 NZC.
Service Lodge, No. 237 NZC.
The Dunedin Lodge, No. 931.
The United Lodge of Otago, No. 448 NZC.

Other Degrees in Freemasonry
Hiram Mark Master Masons, 1890–1893.
Hiram Mark Masters, No. 272, 1902 onwards.
Lodge Kilwinning St. John Royal Arch Chapter, No. 609 SC.
Order of the Secret Monitor, Otaouwai Conclave, No.2.
Otago Royal Arch Chapter, No. 7 NZC.
Otago Royal Arch Chapter, No. 844 EC.
Port Chalmers Marine Royal Arch Chapter, No. 942 EC. Also known as Joyce Chapter and Marine Chapter.
United Great Priory of New Zealand, Preceptory of Otago, No.1 Knights Templar.
Zealandia Marine Mark Lodge, No. 261 EC, Port Chalmers.

Other Masonic Institutions
Junior Masonic Club 1965.

Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society
St. Mary’s Branch, No. 536, Port Chalmers.

Independent Order of Good Templars
Hope of Balclutha Lodge, No. 88.

Independent Order of Oddfellows
Degree Lodge.
Highgate Juvenile Lodge, No. 60.
IOOF Veterans Association of Otago, No. 1.
Kensington Juvenile Lodge, No. 5.
Leith Lodge, No. 6.
Linda Rebekah Lodge, No.1.
Linden Lodge, No. 19, Kaikorai.
Phoenix Encampment.
South Otago District Lodge, No. 1.

Independent Order of Rechabites
Crystal Springs Juvenile Rechabites.

Independent Order of Oddfellows
Loyal Orange Lodge
Goodwill Ladies Lodge, No. 9.
Honoa Ladies Lodge, No. 30/31.
Hope of Port Chalmers Ladies Lodge, No. 30.
John Knox, No. 42, Maheno.
Leith Lodge, No. 21/105.
Lily of Roslyn Ladies Lodge, No. 31.
Mornington, No. 105.
Noble Ladies Lodge, No. 16, Otautau.
No Surrender, No. 21.
Oamaru, No. 19.
Oamaru, No. 19A.
Sir George White, No. 34.
True Blue, No. 39.
William Johnston, No. 12.

Other Masonic Institutions
Aotearoa Intermediate Lodge, No. 2.
Haeremia Boys Juvenile Lodge, No. 5.
Silver Star Girls Juvenile Lodge, No. 5.
Star of Welcome Junior Mixed Lodge, No. 5A.

Other Degrees in Freemasonry
Star of the South Tent, No. 83.

Pridmore Order of Rechabites
Crystal Springs Juvenile Rechabites.

Port Chalmers Marine Lodge, No. 942 EC. Also known as Joyce Chapter and Marine Chapter.
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Zealandia Marine Mark Lodge, No. 261 EC, Port Chalmers.

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Monographs
More than 130 books and histories of lodges can be accessed in the Hocken Library and a selection is as follows:

Antient, Free and Accepted Masons
Anon. 71st Anniversary celebrations and installation of Bro. Henry Bennett as worshipful master and Investiture of officers — Port Chalmers Marine Lodge, No. 942 EC. Contains a brief history.
Anon. Constitution, consecration and dedication of Lodge Oamaru, No. 260 and installation of RW Bro. A.G. Creagh as Worshipful Master on Wednesday, 3rd September 1924 at St. Paul’s Church, Oamaru.
Brooker, A.B. History of Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of New Zealand 1890–1940, 152p.
Miller, F.W.G. Victoria Lodge, No. 147 : the first hundred years. An early Invercargill lodge.

Ancient Order of Foresters
Anon. Historical sketch, 1864–1924, Ancient Order of Foresters, Court Pride of the Leith.
Anon. Minutes of proceedings of the ninety-sixth annual District meeting of the United Otago District, A.O.F. held at Invercargill on April 30, 1960.

Hibernian Australasian Catholic Benefit Society
Wilson, J.H. H.A.C.B. Society Dunedin, St. Joseph’s Branch, No. 73 diamond jubilee celebrations record 1873–1933.

Independent Order of Oddfellows

Independent Order of Rechabites
Davis, F.E. Independent Order of Rechabites. Brief History of the New Zealand Central District No. 86 [1935]. Independent Order of Rechabites, New Zealand Central District, No. 86, Rules governing juvenile section, Independent Order of Rechabites [1934].

International Order of Good Templars
Adams, R.N. The origin and history of Good Templary with an exposition of its principles and objects [1876].
Anon. The Good Templar guide for quarter ending May 1911.

Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows
Anon. Report of proceedings of the annual meeting of the... Committee, Otago District 1896.

Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia
Anon. Laws of the Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia: adopted by the Grand Council of Representatives, at Thames, in the colony of New Zealand [1882].
Anon. Protestant Alliance Friendly Society of Australasia, Annual report 1899
Anon. Minutes of proceedings of biennial session, Grand Council of New Zealand [1890].

Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes
Sons & Daughters of Temperance. Antidote Division, No.118. Rules [1903].

United Ancient Order of Druids
United Ancient Order of Druids, Fifty Years of Druidism 1883–1933: Jubilee of West Harbour Lodge, No.6 opened on 20th September 1883.
United Ancient Order of Druids, Fifty Years of Druidism: Jubilee of Otago Lodge, No. 1 — Grand Lodge of Otago and Southland, NZ, the years in retrospect [1930].

Periodicals
The Good Templar Guide for quarter ending May 1911. Published by International Order of Good Templars, Dunedin District Lodge No. 1.
Temperance Herald and Good Templar Record — Grand Lodge of New Zealand, Sons of Temperance and Rechabites, Dunedin.

Photographs
Various photographs of individuals and groups are held within the archives of individual lodges of Freemasonry, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Independent Order of Rechabites and Loyal Orange Lodge.

* Compiled for the Friends of the Hocken Collections Inc.
PO Box 6336, Dunedin, by Bob Booth, assisted by Susan Irvine, the late David McDonald, and other members of the Hocken Library staff. Edited by George Griffiths; formatted by Gary Blackman.